
TESTING WAS DONE

The Site owners were required to test soil and groundwater samples in preparation for building the residences. These samples were taken to be sure there wasn't soil or groundwater contamination to a level that would make it unsafe for residential use.

Because of the Site's location, the owners sampled Site soil and groundwater for copper, mercury, arsenic and lead. The sample results showed that lead is present in the soil at levels considered unsafe for residential development. According to the data obtained from the sampling, groundwater has not been impacted.

LEAD

Lead is a metal that is considered a harmful environmental pollutant. Routes in which people can be exposed to lead include breathing lead in the air, drinking water or eating food that contains lead. Before it was known how harmful lead could be to public health, it was used in paint, gasoline, water pipes, and many other products. Lead exposure can effect a number of tissues and organs. Of primary concern is delayed development of the nervous system in children exposed to high amounts of lead.

THE SITE IS NOT CURRENTLY A RISK TO THE PUBLIC

Even though there are elevated levels of lead in Site soil, there is no immediate risk to the public. Since the Site is currently covered by loose gravel, small plants, and scattered domestic-related debris, exposure to lead contaminated soil is minimal. However, in order to redevelop the Site, the lead contaminated soil will be disturbed and exposed and could become a public health concern during construction or after residences are built.

WE LOOKED AT DIFFERENT WAYS TO CLEAN UP THE SITE

We considered various options to clean up the Site. These included:

- leaving contaminated soil in place and covering it with clean soil
- stabilizing the soil by mixing it with concrete, for example, to prevent the contaminated soil from being moved around
- restricting use of the Site
- removing the contaminated soil from the Site

WE PROPOSE TO DIG UP AND TAKE AWAY THE CONTAMINATED SOIL

Of all the options considered, digging up and taking away contaminated soil to a licensed landfill proved to be the most effective, least expensive, and easiest way to permanently clean up the Site and make it safe for residential development.

The draft Removal Action Workplan proposes the following:

- dig up approximately 20 cubic yards (no more than two truckloads) of lead contaminated soil in two different locations
- use backhoes and loaders to place excavated soil in a cargo box or dump truck
- spray water during excavation and after soil is placed in the cargo box/dump truck to prevent dust
- water down all trucks to make sure contaminated soil is not taken off-site
- transport contaminated soil to a licensed landfill
- fill holes with clean fill material

After the contaminated soil has been removed, we will sample the soil again to make sure unsafe levels of lead do not remain in the ground.

ALSO FOR REVIEW: OUR FINDINGS
ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE
PROPOSED CLEANUP ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

As required by California state law (the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA) we studied the possible effects the proposed cleanup could have on the environment. The findings of the study can be reviewed in a document called a Notice of Exemption (commonly referred to as a NOE). The NOE says that the proposed cleanup is exempt from CEQA and will have no negative impact on human health or the environment.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

The draft RAW and NOE are available for you to review two locations:

The Truckee Public Library
10031 Levon Avenue
Truckee, CA 96161
(530) 582-7846

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Please call Ms. Maria Gillette at
(916) 255-3953 to make an appointment.

WHERE TO SEND COMMENTS

Comments must be postmarked no later than June 13, 2004. They can be mailed directly to:

Ms. Maria Gillette
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California, 95826.

You may also submit comments by email to mgillett@dtsc.ca.gov.

WHO TO CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions about the cleanup, please call Ms. Maria Gillette at (916) 255-3953.

If you are a member of the media, please call Lisa Gray, Public Information Officer, Department of Toxic Substances Control at (916) 255-0936 or email her at lgray@dtsc.ca.gov.

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED

You may obtain additional information by using the California State Relay at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Ms. Maria Gillette at (916) 255-3953 regarding the Truckee Townhomes site.

Mailing List Coupon: Add or Delete Your Name

If you did not receive this letter through the mail and would like to be placed on the mailing list, you may do so below. You may also request to be removed from receiving any materials on this project in the future. After checking either of the boxes below, please mail this coupon to Heidi Nelson, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826. Please include your mailing address on your envelope so that we may update our mailing list.

- I am currently NOT on your mailing list. Please place me on the mailing list to receive all future material related to this project.
- Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Please note: While mailing lists are solely for DTSC use, they are considered public records and may be subjected to release upon request.